## Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

## **Listing of Claims:**

.

- 1. (withdrawn) A method for culturing human embryonic stem cells comprising culturing the stem cells in a nutrient medium in which the stem cells will remain undifferentiated and in an atmosphere having no more than about 5% oxygen.
- 2. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the medium further comprises an antioxidant in the nutrient medium.
- 3. (withdrawn) An improvement in methods for cloning cultures of human embryonic stem cells, the improvement comprising culturing the human embryonic stem cells prior to cloning in a nutrient medium and in an atmosphere having no more than about 5% oxygen.
- 4. (withdrawn) The improvement of claim 3 further comprising adding an antioxidant to the nutrient medium in which the stem cells are cultured.
- 5. (withdrawn) A method for culturing human embryonic stem cells comprising culturing the stem cells in a nutrient medium in which the stem cells can remain undifferentiated and in an atmosphere having no more than about 5% oxygen.
- 6. (withdrawn) An improvement in a medium for the cultivation of human embryonic stem cells, the improvement comprising that the medium is adjusted to have an osmolarity in excess of 330 mOsMol.
- 7. (withdrawn) The improvement as claimed in claim 6 wherein the osmolarity of the medium is about 350 mOsMol.

- 8. (currently amended) A stem cell culture comprising
  a culture plate;
  a nutrient medium in the culture plate; and
  growing human embryonic stem cells, wherein the cells are cultured in the
  medium; and the medium having an osmolarity in excess of 330 mOsMol.
- 9. (original) A stem cell culture as claimed in claim 8 wherein the osmolarity is about 350 mOsMol.
- 10. (withdrawn) A method for culturing human embryonic stem cells comprising culturing the stem cells in a nutrient medium in which the stem cells will remain undifferentiated, the medium having an osmolarity in excess of 330 mOsMol.
- 11. (withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the medium has an osmolarity of about 350mOsMol.
  - 12. (new) The culture of Claim 8 wherein the cells remain undifferentiated.

11